

Tongue River Bridge  
Spanning the Tongue River  
on Local Road #054  
Miles City  
Custer County  
Montana

HAER No. MI-16

HAER  
MONT.  
9 - MILCI,  
2 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Tongue River Bridge

MT-16

HAER  
MONT,  
9-MILCI,  
2-

Location: Spanning the Tongue River on local road 054 in Miles City, Custer County, Montana.

Date of Construction: 1897

Present Owner: Custer County  
Miles City, Montana 59301

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: The Tongue River Bridge in Miles City was erected in 1897 by W.S. Hewett & Co. of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The bridge has two approach spans from the north (a timber stringer span: 20 feet long; and a steel plate girder span: 37 feet long) and two approach spans from the south (a timber span: 20 feet long; and a steel plate girder span: 37 feet long). The main span consists of a pin-connected Pennsylvania through truss 233 feet long and the bridge is 16 feet wide throughout. The truss is simply supported on encased concrete steel tubular piers. The superstructure was fabricated as follows: lower chords of forged steel eyebars; vertical members of laced channel sections; subdivided diagonal members of either laced channels, eyebars or eyebars with turnbuckles; and upper chords of continuous plates riveted atop channel sections with lacing bars riveted along the bottom flanges. The lateral struts were fabricated with riveted angle sections. The timber deck and stringers were erected atop steel I-beam floor beams. The Tongue River Bridge is the oldest existing steel highway bridge in eastern Montana and its main span is similar to the main spans of the Yellowstone River Bridge at Fort Keogh.

Transmitted by: Kevin Murphy, Historian HAER, 1984; from data compiled by Greg Fitzsimons, 1979

ADDENDUM TO  
TONGUE RIVER BRIDGE  
Spanning the Tongue River  
on Local Road #054  
Miles City  
Cluster County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-16

HAER  
MONT  
9-MILCL,  
2-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127